

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EA-13 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 AID-10 L-02 RSR-01 PM-03

PRS-01 /079 W

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R 121731Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1746

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19156

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, VN, VS, CB, LA

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF QUAI ASIAN DIRECTOR ON INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: PARIS 17840

BEGIN SUMMARY. FROMENT-MEURICE (FM) REQUESTED EMBOFF TO CALL PRIOR TO HIS (FM'S) DEPARTING FOR VACATION JULY 15 FOR AN UPDATE OF THE PREVIOUS TOUR D'HORIZON (REFTEL). JULY 11 CONVERSATION FOLLOWED SAME GENERAL LINES OF THE PREVIOUS IN NOTING AREAS OF PROGRESS AND LACK OF PROGRESS FOLLOWING JUNE 13 COMMUNIQUE. FM THOUGHT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE NO SIGNIFICANT EVOLUTION UNTIL AFTER KISSINGER TRIP TO PEKING. FM AGAIN PUSHED POLITICAL EVOLUTION AS PREFERABLE TO DIVISION OF INDOCHINA COUNTRIES. HE DEPLORED GVN RIGIDITY AND THOUGHT GKR WAS EMBARKING ON THE WRONG COURSE IN ISSUING JULY 6 STATEMENT. FM ALSO SAID FRENCH HAD HEARD RUMORS OF AN IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE LAO DONG PARTY OF THE DRV. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMUNIST POLICIES FOR INDOCHINA. FM SAID HE CONTINUED  
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TO CONSIDER THE BASIC POLICY QUESTION IN INDOCHINA TO BE

THE CHOICE BETWEEN DIVISION OF EACH OF THE NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION WITHIN THEM TO AVOID THE DIVISION. HE HAD RECENTLY MET WITH A NUMBER OF EASTERN EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS WHO HAD SAID THAT CHINA PREFERRED TO SEE INDEPENDENT, UNIFIED LAOS, CAMBODIA, SOUTH VIETNAM AND OPPOSED A DIVISION OF EACH COUNTRY WHICH WOULD LEAVE A PART UNDER A MOVEMENT RESPONSIVE TO HANOI. ON THE OTHER HAND, ACCORDING TO THESE AMBASSADORS, THE USSR FAVORED THE DIVISION OF EACH COUNTRY AS THE MEANS OF MAINTAINING MAXIMUM SOVIET INFLUENCE IN HANOI. THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH HAD REPORTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ENCOURAGED LONG BORET TO MAKE HIS JULY 6 DECLARATION, WHICH SEEMED TO FM TO BE DESIGNED TO CREATE THE KIND OF DIVISION OF CAMBODIA WHICH HAD BEEN ALREADY OCCURRED IN SOUTH VIETNAM. FM SAID FRANCE BELIEVED THAT POLITICAL EVOLUTION, DESPITE ITS INHERENT UNCERTAINTIES, WAS PREFERABLE TO A POLICY WHICH DIVIDED THE INDOCHINA COUNTRIES. FM HOPED KISSINGER VISIT TO PEKING WOULD BREAK CURRENT STALEMATE AND PROMOTE POLITICAL EVOLUTION.

2. SOUTH VIETNAM. FM CONTINUED TO BE VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE GVN PRESENTED ONLY A RIGID "PACKAGE DEAL" CONCERNING ELECTIONS, DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES, AND RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES, A FORMAT OBVIOUSLY NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE PRG. THE GVN POSITION WOULD ALSO PREVENT FORMATION OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD SINCE THE GVN WOULD PERMIT NO REAL ROLE FOR A "THIRD COMPONENT". THE GVN HAD BEEN EVEN VERY SPITEFUL ABOUT "THIRD FORCE" ELEMENTS IN PARIS. FM CONTINUED TO SEE IN SVN THE CONSOLIDATION OF A MILITARY STALEMATE WHICH WOULD PROMOTE THE DIVISION OF THE COUNTRY.

3. LAO DONG PARTY CONGRESS. FM SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAD PICKED UP THE RUMOR THAT THERE WOULD SOON BE A MEETING OF THE LAO DONG PARTY DESIGNED TO SELECT A NEW LEADERSHIP-- THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP WAS DESCRIBED BY THESE SOURCES AS TOO OLD.

4. FRENCH AID TO INDOCHINA. FM SAID HE EXPECTED  
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MISSOFFE WOULD RETURN TO PARIS IN MID-JULY AFTER VISITING VIENTIANE. THE DRV HAD EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN FRENCH AID AND ASKED MISSOFFE TO VISIT HANOI LATER IN THE SUMMER WHEN PHAM VAN DONG AND PLANNING BUREAU EXPERTS RETURNED AFTER THEIR LENGTHY TOUR OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. GDS  
IRWIN

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